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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3808

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
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President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As a member of Congress representing a portion of a city with one of the critical ports recently purchased by the United Arab Emirates state-owned Dubai Ports World, I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the Treasury Department's Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States decision to approve the sale. I strongly urge that this decision to finalize this \$6.8 billion deal be suspended until Congress has an opportunity to conduct a more extensive review of the national security implications surrounding the transaction.

I am concerned that the UAE has served as a conduit for parts used for nuclear proliferation and the UAE banking system had been abused by terrorist financiers. As you know, the UAE was the transfer point for nuclear components to Iran, North Korea and Libya, and the UAE has a history as an operational and financial base for the hijackers who carried out the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. In addition, the UAE was one of only three countries that recognized the Taliban as the legitimate government in Afghanistan in 1996. Outsourcing the management operations of our large ports to a company that is owned by a country with a dubious record on nuclear proliferation and terrorism raises serious question about the impact the approval of this transaction will have on our national security.

The six United States ports in New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Miami and New Orleans are located in close proximity to millions of Americans. Security experts have repeatedly said American ports are extremely difficult to protect. U.S. seaports handle 2 billion tons of freight each year but only about 5 percent of containers entering the United States are examined on arrival. These population and economic centers must not be put at risk by allowing a UAE state-owned company to control these vital ports.

Accordingly, I strongly urge you to take action to suspend the transfer of ownership of the ports in question and instruct officials from your administration to appear before Congress to answer any questions and provide additional information regarding the decision of the Committee on Foreign Investment. This matter deserves a full investigation to ensure that Americans are not put at risk. I understand the challenges America faces in protecting the homeland and appreciate the difficult task you face. I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress